

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SY-05 AID-05 A-01

OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 /066 W  
----- 108165

R 291201Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 9829

KUALA LUMPUR PLEASE PASS TO ASST. SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TH, OVIP (HABIB, PHILIP C.)

SUBJECT: MEDIA CONSIDERATIONS IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S VISIT

REF: A. STATE 000454 B. STATE 102985 C. BANGKOK 9007

1. WE EXPECT SOME PRESS TO BE AT THE AIRPORT FOR YOUR ARRIVAL JUNE1. THOUGH WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT A DEMONSTRATION IS BEING PLANNED, IT IS REMOTELY POSSIBLE THAT THE LEADERS OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN AGITATION FOLLOWING THE MAYAGUEZ AFFAIR MAY USE YOUR VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE US PRESENCE. NEWS OF YOUR IMPENDING VISIT HAS ALREADY APPEARED IN THE PRESS HERE.

2. WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING TO SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR POSSIBLE INFORMAL REMARKS TO NEWSMEN AT THE AIRPORT: "THIS IS MY FIRST VISIT TO THAILAND SINCE MY APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS. IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE HERE. I HAVE COME TO DISCUSS WITH THAI OFFICIALS MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. (NOTE: DO NOT BE MORE SPECIFIC AS WE DO NOT  
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HAVECONFIRMATION FOR YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.)

THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME. WHATEVER ISSUES WE FACE, THE SYMPATHY AND REGARD THAT HAVE BEEN THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FRIENDSHIP WILL, I HOPE, CONTINUE TO GUIDE AND SUPPORT OUR RELATIONS. I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING AND TALKING WITH THAI LEADERS. IT WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS AT THIS TIME."

3. GIVEN THE TRACK RECORD OF SOME GOVERNMENT LEADERS HERE, WE CAN EXPECT THAT THEY WILL DISCUSS WITH THE PRESS THE SUBSTANCE OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH YOU SOON AFTER THE MEETINGS. DEPENDING ON WHAT THEY TELL NEWSMEN, WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF HANDING OUT A DEPARTURE STATEMENT JUNE 5 TO GET ON THE PUBLIC RECORD OUR OWN VIEWS ABOUT THE DISCUSSIONS.

4. SINCE THE FALL OF SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH, BANGKOK HAS BECOME A GATHERING POINT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS TRYING TO REPORT EVENTS IN THIS AREA. DURING YOUR VISIT, YOU MAY WISH TO CONSIDER SEEING ON BACKGROUND, WITH ATTRIBUTION TO AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL, A SELECTED NUMBER OF US CORRESPONDENTS TO GIVE THEM THE BENEFIT OF YOUR PERCEPTIONS OF CURRENT ISSUES INVOLVING THE US IN THIS REGION, PARTICULARLY IN THAILAND.  
WHITEHOUSE

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